



## GUIDANCE FOR THEATERS

**Following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance, under all circumstances, the following precautions should be followed by people visiting theaters. To the extent possible, theaters should take measures to ensure that customers may follow these guidelines:**

- Stay home if sick.
- Protect yourself while visiting theaters:
  - Stay at least 6 feet away from other patrons.
  - If you are at [higher risk for](#) severe illness, you should avoid visiting theaters. People at higher risk [for severe illness](#) include adults 65 or older and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions.
  - Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth.
  - If possible, use touchless payment (pay without touching money, a card, or a keypad). If you must handle money, a card, or use a keypad, use hand sanitizer immediately after.
  - After leaving the theater, use hand sanitizer. When you get home, wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

### **FOR BUSINESSES - The Department of Health Services recommends the following additional steps be taken by theaters:**

- Maintain physical distancing, to the extent possible.
- Provide and require employees to wear masks when possible.
- Provide access to soap and water for handwashing or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer at stations around the theater for use by employees and clients. Require employees to regularly wash hands for at least 20 seconds.
- Operate with reduced occupancy with special attention to limiting areas where customers and employees can congregate.
- Consider scheduling staggered showtimes to prevent congregating in waiting areas.
- Consider spacing out seating for those who are not in the same party to at least six feet apart when possible; consider limiting seating to alternate rows.
- Wipe any pens, counters, or hard surfaces between use or customer.
- Implement comprehensive sanitation protocols, leaving extra time to sanitize in between showings.
- Implement symptom screening for employees prior to the start of their shift.
- Arrange concession areas and break rooms to provide for appropriate physical distancing and sanitize areas regularly between use.
- Concession areas should:
  - Wash, rinse, and sanitize food contact surfaces, food preparation surfaces, and beverage equipment after use.
  - Avoid using or sharing items such as condiments, butter dispensers, popcorn flavorings, and any other food. Instead, use single serving condiments, and no-touch trash cans and doors.
- Consider not providing alcohol other than at a concession area with clean glasses.
- Consider posting signs advising customers and employees of expectations and guidance.
- Train all employees in the above safety actions.
- For theaters that offer on-premise child care:
  - ADHS recommends avoiding gatherings if physical distancing of at least 6 feet between people who don't live together cannot be maintained.
  - If on-premise child care must be provided:
    - Limit the number of children to prevent transmission.
    - Maintain physical distancing.
    - Implementing symptom screening of staff AND participants, especially children who might not be capable of staying at least 6 feet apart from people they don't live with.
    - Staggering drop-off and pick-up times, as much as possible, to maintain distance of at least 6 feet between people who don't live together.
    - Discourage the sharing of equipment such as toys and supplies with those they don't live with.
    - Ask parents to consider if their children are capable of staying at least 6 feet apart from people they don't live with before taking them to a public venue.
    - Follow the CDC guidance for [Child Care Programs that Remain Open](#)

*\*\*Note that guidance continues to be updated and those complying with the guidance are encouraged to visit the websites provided frequently to ensure they are complying with the most up-to-date guidance.*

**Websites for additional public health guidance:**

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) · [www.azhealth.gov](http://www.azhealth.gov) · [www.dol.gov](http://www.dol.gov) · [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)